

### REMARKS

Claims 26-30, 32-55, 57-71, 73-76, 78, 79, 81-91, 93-99 and 103-107 are pending, with claims 26, 34, 42, 51, 59, 67, 76 and 81-89 being independent. Claims 26, 34, 42, 51, 59, 67, 76, 81-89 and 105 have been amended and new claim 107 has been added.

Claim 105 has been rejected under section 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis for "gettering element." As suggested by the Examiner, applicant has amended claim 105 to recite "gettering material." Applicant notes that the response of September 26, 2002, included this amendment in the marked up copy of the claims, but failed to include it in the clean copy of the claims.

Claims 81, 83-85, 87-91, 93-99, 104 and 105 have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-62 of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,743 and claims 1-52 of U.S. Patent No. 6,461,943, and claims 26-30, 32-55, 57-71, 73-76, 78, 79, 81-91, 93-99 and 103-106 have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,544,826. Independent claims 81, 83-85 and 87-89 have been amended to recite introducing a gettering material into a surface of a crystallized semiconductor film within a region of 0.1 to 0.2  $\mu$ m in depth from the surface of the crystallized semiconductor film, as described at page 15, lines 5-8 of the specification and illustrated in Fig. 2(B). Independent claims 26, 34, 42, 51, 59, 67, 76, 82 and 86 have been amended to recite forming a gettering layer comprising phosphorus over an entire surface of the semiconductor film, as illustrated in Fig. 1(B). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections because claims 1-62 of the '743 patent, claims 1-52 of the '943 patent, and claims 1-26 of the '826 patent, all fail to describe or suggest introducing a gettering material into a surface of a crystallized semiconductor film within a region of 0.1 to 0.2  $\mu$ m in depth from the surface of the crystallized semiconductor film, as recited in each of claims 81, 83-85 and 87-89, and because claims 1-26 of the '826 patent all fail to describe or suggest forming a gettering layer comprising phosphorus over an entire surface of the semiconductor film, as recited in each of claims 26, 34, 42, 51, 59, 67, 76, 82 and 86.

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With respect to the provisional double-patenting rejection of the claims for obviousness-type double patenting over the claims of application numbers 09/939,767 and 10/074,050, applicant will consider whether to file a terminal disclaimer based on the status and content of those claims when the claims of the present application are otherwise found to be allowable.

Enclosed is a \$110 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 12, 2003

  
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